(b) whether there is a deficit in power generation vis-a-vis demand; if so, in what manner this crisis is proposed to be tackled;

(c) whether Government propose to tap alternative sources of power; and

(d) what is the total output of power expected to added due to the recent Indo-US bilateral agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) During the year 1994-95 the energy requirement in the country was 352260 million units against which the availability was 327281 million units.

In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability of power various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the country include expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No Government to Government agreement have been signed with the United States for America for setting up of power projects.

Differences between India and Nepal on power projects

3461. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government,s attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "India-Nepal differ on Hydel projects" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd March, 1995; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government there to indicating the steps underway to remove the stalemete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Secretary Level Meeting on Water Resources Cooperation, including development of hydel projects, for the mutual benefits of two countries was held between India and Nepal at Kathmandu during March 13-15, 1995. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation from both sides and a number of projects with a view to making progress on them were discussed. As a result of these discussions, it has been agreed to reactivate the eixsting three tier mechanism of discussions viz. technical level, official level and political level. After the Secretary level meeting, bilateral discussions were again held on 11th April, 1995 at both official level and Minister level during the vtsit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India.

External Commercial Borrowings for private power projects

3462. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has estimated a total External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) requirement of around $2.1 billion for private power projects in 1995-96, far exceeding the current informal limit of $1.5 billion for the power sector as a whole.

(b) the names of projects having ECB approvals and which of the fast track projects are not slated for ECB disbursals in 1995-96 and which are the main projects expected to receive these disbursement for 1995-96 (excluding fast track projects); and

(c) in what manner investments and guarantees form the domestic credit institutions and market borrowings of ECBs are proposed to be revised inview of the inadequate ECB ceiling for power meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following projects have the ECB approval:

1. Dabhol CCGT (695 MW)
2. Ib Valley TPS (420 MW)
3. Jegurupadu GBPP (235 MW)
4. Kakinaoa GBPP (208 MW)
5. Zero Unit (NLC) TPS (250 MW)
6. Paguthan GBPP (655 MW)

Fast track project of Mangalore TPS (1000 MW) is not likely to receive ECB disbursement for 1995-96.

Following Projects other than fast track projects are expected to receive ECB disbursements in 1995-96;

1. Roza TPS (750 MW)
2. Pillaiperumalnui GBPP (300 MW)
3. Gouripore TPS (150 MW)
2. JBTC TPS (240 MW)
5. Maheshwar TPS (400 MW)
6. Ballagarh TPS (500 MW)
7. Consolidated Electric Power Asia Ltd. (3300 MW)

(c) The possibility of raising the ceilings would be examined by the Government after these projects receive all clearances.

visit of President of Public Service Enterprises Group Inc. USA

3463. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Public Service Enterprises Group Inc. (PSEG) USA the third largest power company in US visited India in recent past:

(b) if so, the detatls there of along with the objectives of the visits;

(c) whether the President, PSEG had indicated that US power firms will make investment in the power and related sectors in India in a large manner;

(d) whether for future plans in India in the Power and related sectors, PSEG had already held discussions and negotiations with Central Electricity Authority, Steel Authority of India etc. for joint ventures;

(e) if so, the details there of with progress made in this regard;

(f) whether Government propose to take some measures to finalise the effort made by President, PSEG in near future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The President of Public Service Enterprises Group Inc: (PSEG), USA visited Ministry of Power on 13.3.1995 and expressed interest in investtng in India's power sector.

(d) No, Sir

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

Proposed for Augmentation of Transmission System

3464. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Corporation has sent some proposals for augmentation of transmission system in South Assam, Mizoram and Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof with estimated cost involved for each:

(c) wheher Government have approved these proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when augmentation work is likely to be undertaken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?